

# THE PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

## *Why the Pardon is Important*

In Texas, any person convicted of a felony loses certain rights, including voting, holding public office, serving on juries, and securing certain occupational licenses. The Federal Firearms Act prohibits the possession of a firearm of any kind by a person convicted of a felony. A Presidential Pardon restores some of those rights.

## **Eligibility**

Any person convicted of a felony in federal court is eligible to file a petition for a Presidential Pardon when:

1. He or she is no longer serving the sentence and is not under probation or parole supervision.
2. A period of at least 5 years has passed since release from confinement or if no confinement was imposed, 5 years from date of conviction.
3. For more serious offenses, such as violent crimes, violation of narcotics laws, perjury, violation of public trust involving personal dishonesty, fraud involving substantial sums of money, violations involving organized crime and other crimes of a serious nature, a waiting period of 7 years is required.

## **How to apply**

Write to:

Pardon Attorney  
Department of Justice  
500 First Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Ask for a petition for a Presidential Pardon. Advise them of the date you were sentenced, the offense involved, and the sentence imposed. This information will determine whether you are eligible to apply. The petition and appropriate forms will be sent to you.

## **Completing the Petition**

In completing your portion of the petition, you should ask for restoration of all rights lost by reason of a felony conviction, and you should specifically ask for removal of disabilities imposed by the Federal Firearms Act. Unless the pardon specifically removes those disabilities, **the law continues to prohibit you from possessing a**

**firearm.**

The persons you select to file an affidavit in support of your petition should be persons of good character who are personally acquainted with you and not necessarily persons prominent in your community.

Should you require any assistance, dates, or other information relating to your conviction, you may write the U.S. Probation Office nearest you.